

F-7291

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Satoshi MAEDA et al.

Serial No. : (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP01/04259  
Filed May 22, 2001)

Filed : Concurrently herewith

For : ULTRA-THIN ABSORBING SHEET BODY,  
DISPOSABLE ABSORBENT ARTICLE  
PROVIDED WITH ULTRA-THIN ABSORBING  
SHEET BODY AND PRODUCTION DEVICE  
FOR ULTRA-THIN ABSORBING SHEET BODY

Group Art Unit : (Not yet known)

Examiner : (Not yet known)

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified patent  
application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as shown rewritten below with amendments effected therein. Appendix I is attached hereto having marked versions of said claims with amendments indicated by brackets and underlining.

6. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein an area ratio of the absorbent polymer powder absent area and the absorbent polymer powder present area is 1:9 to 5:5.

7. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the first hotmelt adhesive layer takes a network structure formed by randomly adhering a large number of fibrillated hotmelt adhesive pieces to each other.

8. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the second hotmelt adhesive layer is formed by placing a plurality of linear hotmelt adhesive pieces having a spiral contour one over another.

9. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the second hotmelt adhesive layer is formed by placing a network structure formed by randomly adhering a large number of fibrillated hotmelt adhesive pieces to each other and a plurality of linear hotmelt adhesive pieces having a spiral contour one over the other.

10. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein adhered amounts of the first and second hotmelt adhesive layers are both 1 to 20 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

11. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein air permeability is 6000 cc/m<sup>2</sup>·24 hrs.

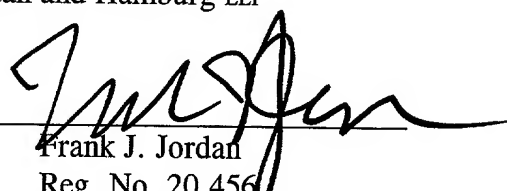
**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with the filing of this National Stage application. It is respectfully requested that the first Office Action be directed to the application as amended herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix I (Amended Claims with Amendments Indicated  
Therein by Brackets and Underlining)

## APPENDIX I

AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN  
BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING

6. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to [5] 4, wherein an area ratio of the absorbent polymer powder [present] absent area and the absorbent polymer powder [absent] present area is 1:9 to 5:5.

7. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to [6] 4, wherein the first hotmelt adhesive layer takes a network structure formed by randomly adhering a large number of fibrillated hotmelt adhesive pieces to each other.

8. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to [7] 4, wherein the second hotmelt adhesive layer is formed by placing a plurality of linear hotmelt adhesive pieces having a spiral contour one over another.

9. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to [7] 4, wherein the second hotmelt adhesive layer is formed by placing a network structure formed by randomly adhering a large number of fibrillated hotmelt adhesive pieces to each other and a plurality of linear hotmelt adhesive pieces having a spiral contour one over the other.

10. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to [9] 4, wherein adhered amounts of the first and second hotmelt adhesive layers are both 1 to 20 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

11. (Amended) An ultra-thin absorbent sheet member according to any of claims 1 to [10] 4, wherein air permeability is 6000 cc/m<sup>2</sup>·24 hrs.